

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SA:RBEDDINGTON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 159372

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA, IT

SUBJECT: USE OF STATION SIRIO SATELLITE

REF: ROME'S 10315

1. THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM MR. FRUTKIN, NASA, TO MRS. MINK, OES, PROVIDING THE PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF A COMMUNICATION DEMONSTRATION BETWEEN ITALY AND THE US WITH THE SIRIO SATELLITE IS HEREWITH PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2."YOUR STAFF HAS ASKED US TO COMMENT, FROM A TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW, ON AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S PROPOSAL TO USE THE ITALIAN EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, SIRIO, IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER FOR AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL US AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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3."SIRIO IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH BY NASA AUGUST 18TH ON A COST-REIMBURSABLE BASIS. (IT IS AN ITALIAN RATHER THAN A JOINT US-ITALIAN PROJECT.)

4."TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE SIRIO SATELLITE CAN BE USED TO TRANSMIT A SIGNAL ONE-WAY, FROM ITALY TO THE

US, BUT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO USE IT FOR TWO-WAY TRANSMISSION. RECEPTION OF THE SIGNAL MIGHT REQUIRE PORTABLE RECEIVING EQUIPMENT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THE ITALIANS WOULD BE PLEASED TO LOAN THE US FOR THIS PURPOSE. SHIPPING CHARGES WOULD PRESUMABLY BE BORNE BY THE USG.

5."TO MAKE SUCH A DEMONSTRATION A TWO-WAY EXCHANGE, IT WOULD APPEAR NECESSARY TO ARRANGE FOR USE OF THE INTEL-SAT COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SERVICES FOR THE US-TO-ITALY LINK. THE ESTIMATED COST OF SUCH SERVICES (VIDEO AND AUDIO TRANSMISSION) IS APPROXIMATELY \$5,500 PER HOUR.

6."WITHOUT IN ANY WAY DETRACTING FROM THE POLITICAL INTEREST OF SIRIO'S USE, WE SHOULD NOTE, TO COMPLETE OUR TECHNICAL COMMENT, THAT SIRIO, IN PURELY TECHNICAL TERMS, IS LARGELY DUPLICATIVE OF EARLIER SPACE WORK AND ITS USE COULD NOT BE REPRESENTED APPROPRIATELY AS FOR NEW EXPERIMENTAL OR TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES.

7."WITH DUE ALLOWANCE FOR THE FACT THAT THE SATELLITE IS AN ITALIAN PROPERTY, WE WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY THAT WE CAN WITH THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY DEMONSTRATION IT IS DECIDED TO PURSUE." VANCE

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